

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

### **RS19941C1**

The purpose of this bill is to modify Title 56, Public Assistance and Welfare, Chapter 2, Public Assistance Law, Section 27D, Federal Food Stamps to update the obsolete references in the existing law from Food Stamps, which no longer exist, to Food Stamp Benefits issued in any form, including through Electronic Benefit Transaction cards.

This statute provides the Director of the Department of Health and Welfare with the means to enforce Public Assistance Laws and for law enforcement to pursue criminal penalties for the unauthorized use of food stamp benefits. The existing statute refers to Food Stamps which are no longer issued. Instead of issuing Food Stamps, the Department now issues Food Stamp Benefits on Electronic Benefit Transaction cards. Modifying the statute will allow law enforcement to apply criminal penalties for abusing food stamp food stamp benefits issued on an Electronic Benefit Transaction card, or any other future issuance method.

### **FISCAL NOTE**

Modifying Title 56, Public Assistance and Welfare, Chapter 2, Public Assistance Law, Section 27D, Federal Food Stamps will not have a direct fiscal impact. However, the statute change will allow law enforcement to charge individuals who abuse food stamps and thus provide a deterrent.

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